

Appl. No. 09/931,562  
Letter dated December 20, 2004  
Reply to Office Action of October 20, 2004

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace paragraph [001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] The present application is a ~~continuation~~ continuation-in-part of the U.S. application Ser. No. 08/764,745, filed Dec. 12, 1996; which is a continuation in part of the then U.S. application Ser. No. 07/834,007, filed Feb. 11, 1992, since issued as U.S. Pat. No. 5,304,131; which is a continuation in part of the then U.S. application Ser. No. 07/730,120, filed Jul. 15, 1991, since issued as U.S. Pat. No. 5,290,229.